



29 November 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 20 November 2024 requesting information about single parents with dependent children receiving main benefits, including Young Parent Payment.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Please find attached **Appendix One** containing **Table One** showing the number of single clients on main benefits with dependent children, broken down by benefit type as at end of March 2018, March 2023 and September 2024.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services

Appendix One

Table One: Number of single clients on main benefits with dependent children, broken down by benefit type as at end of March 2018, March 2023 and September 2024.

As at month end	Benefit								Total
	Supported Living Payments related	Emergency Maintenance Allowance	Sole Parent Support	Job Seeker Student Hardship	Emergency Benefit	Sole Parent Support Overseas	Job Seeker related	Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment	
March 2018	7,335	753	58,782	18	132	3	11,085	1,548	79,653
March 2023	7,899	606	73,515	9	165	0	12,591	1,224	96,012
September 2024	8,667	807	77,982	6	198	0	13,713	1,323	102,693

Notes:

- This report contains clients of all ages including those that fall outside of working ages (18-64).
- Main benefits exclude New Zealand Superannuation, Veteran's Pension, Non-Beneficiary assistance, Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit.
- The Jobseeker Support related group includes Jobseeker Support - Health Condition & Disability, Jobseeker Support - Work Ready and Jobseeker Support - Work Ready Training.
- The Supported Living Payment benefit group includes Supported Living Payment - Carers and Supported Living Payment - Health Condition and Disability.
- To protect confidentiality, the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- Random rounding does not round down to zero, a value of one or two will be rounded to three.

- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.